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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 62/276, the General Assembly decided to establish, at its sixty-third session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(*a*) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on previous resolutions;

(*b*) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-third session.

2. The present report and the recommendations contained herein are submitted pursuant to that resolution.

3. During the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, on 20 March 2009, the President of the General Assembly appointed two Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Ambassador Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, and Ambassador Morten Wetland, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations.

4. Before formally beginning its work, the Working Group's Co-Chairs conducted informal meetings with various Member States and representatives of different political groupings. During those meetings, the Co-Chairs benefited extensively from the insights and ideas of Member States on both the substance and the technical and procedural aspects of the revitalization process.

II. Proceedings

5. The Working Group held eight meetings: on 15 April, 3, 5 and 19 June, 27 July and 8 and 10 September 2009.

6. The programme of work was organized in three practical stages: (a) general discussion and exchange of views; (b) thematic meetings; and (c) briefings. At each of those stages, delegates identified ways to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly.

A. General discussion

7. At its 1st meeting, on 15 April, the Working Group held a general discussion on the revitalization of the General Assembly, in the course of which 20 Member States intervened, including on behalf of various political groups.

8. In their opening remarks, the Co-Chairs thanked their predecessors from the sixty-second session for their important work and achievements which, they said, would form the basis for the current session's work. They recalled that only a strong General Assembly could help strengthen multilateralism and that their work would be based on the principles of transparency and inclusiveness.

9. Following remarks from the President of the General Assembly, which were read out on his behalf by the Co-Chairs, speakers welcomed the appointment of the Co-Chairs.

10. During the discussion, delegations touched upon many pertinent problems, including: relations between the main organs of the United Nations (particularly between the General Assembly and the Security Council); the timely issuance of reports; the importance of reducing the printing and distribution of official documents (as well as related costs); the importance of thematic debates; the visibility of the Assembly; the use and amelioration of voting and balloting technology; the processes of appointing the Secretary-General and electing the President of the General Assembly; and the role of the President of the General Assembly. Generally, however, delegations agreed that, in order to move the process of General Assembly revitalization forward, the Ad Hoc Working Group should agree on a few specific issues and focus on achieving tangible results on them. On each of the issues mentioned, however, Member States supported the approach offered by the Co-Chairs of focusing on assessment of the implementation of past General Assembly resolutions on revitalization, feeling that an effective and fair assessment of the status of implementation was identified as vital to further progress.

11. Regarding the implementation of resolutions, many speakers welcomed the chart on the status of implementation prepared by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-second session (see A/62/952/Add.1), which they agreed should form the basis for the current session's deliberations. Many speakers also underlined that the Working Group could consider undertaking an analysis of the reasons for non-implementation of previously adopted resolutions in its remit. One delegation proposed that each General Assembly session should be opened with a debate on the status of implementation of its own resolutions, while another thought implementation of resolutions should form the exclusive focus of the Working Group's work.

12. Many delegations underlined that revitalization was a political process whose principal objective was to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, and to counter attempts to undermine that role, including through perceived encroachment. Other speakers stressed that the goal of the exercise should be to render the work of the Assembly more efficient and effective, including through improving its working methods and adjusting its agenda to the current global realities.

13. Numerous delegations suggested that the Assembly's role in the selection process of the Secretary-General should be enhanced, and many regretted that provisions to that effect contained in previous resolutions had not yet been fully implemented.

14. The strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly was mentioned by a number of delegations as a possible focus of the Ad Hoc Working Group. A greater role by the Assembly as a whole in the process of electing its Presidents was also flagged. In order to facilitate the transition process from one President to the next, the proposal was made that each President draft a best practices paper for his or her successor.

15. Balance among the principal organs, and particularly with the Security Council, given what many delegations perceived as encroachment on the work of the General Assembly, was an important point that needed to be addressed. That, a number of delegations argued, included making the Council more accountable to the Assembly and aligning their work programmes. It was also pointed out that the

relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council was also considered in the context of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. One delegation suggested focusing also on the General Assembly's relationship with the Peacebuilding Commission.

16. Several speakers cited modernization of the voting system in the General Assembly as an important subject that could lead to a specific outcome. A number of them indicated its possible referral to the Fifth Committee for consideration there in the context of the Capital Master Plan. The possibility of the introduction of optical disc scanners needed to be borne in mind, guided as well by the considerations of security and confidentiality.

17. In his concluding remarks, the Permanent Representative of Norway announced that a workplan would be drafted, based on careful study and consideration of the interventions and comments made by Member States.

18. As a result of these deliberations, the Co-Chairs, in a letter dated 29 May 2009, circulated a workplan proposing three thematic meetings focusing on those issues most frequently cited as issues considered to be most central to the General Assembly's revitalization process:

1. "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions and the agenda; operational and technical issues, including information on the General Assembly voting system, in the framework of the Capital Master Plan";

2. "The role of the General Assembly and its relationship to the other principal organs of the organization and the visibility and public outreach capacity of the Assembly; the role and responsibility of the General Assembly in the process of appointing Secretaries-General of the United Nations";

3. "Strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and enhancing its functions and relationship with the Secretariat."

B. Thematic meetings

1. "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions and the General Assembly agenda; operational and technical issues, including information on the General Assembly voting system, in the framework of the Capital Master Plan"

19. The first thematic meeting, as indicated in the workplan, was held on 3 June. Nine delegations, some also speaking on behalf of groups, intervened in discussions on the issues indicated above.

20. On the implementation of resolutions pertaining to the revitalization of the General Assembly, the view was expressed that over the years a sufficient number of proposals had been adopted by the Assembly and that Member States should now focus on their implementation. In this context, several speakers again underlined that the chart developed by the previous Ad Hoc Working Group during the sixty-second session would be a good basis for that effort. While some thought that the Secretary-General should be requested to update the chart on a regular basis, including an indication of reasons for non-implementation, one delegation suggested

that review of the implementation of resolutions should be undertaken only every four to five years. Of those in favour of continuing the review exercise, some indicated that it could be beneficial to consider, at the outset, modalities for such a review. It was also thought by some that information on the implementation of Assembly resolutions should also become an integral feature of the Secretary-General's annual report.

21. Regarding the question of the agenda of the General Assembly, several speakers argued that the best way to revitalize the Assembly would be for it to facilitate consideration of the most pressing contemporary concerns of relevance to all Member States as well as the international community as a whole. A number of speakers also suggested that a streamlining of the agenda could be beneficial, so that the many imminent crises and new challenges that had come to the forefront of the international political agenda in recent years could be more fully and effectively addressed. Many Member States indicated willingness in principle to approach the challenge of the agenda of the General Assembly, while at the same time clearly underlining their awareness of the political sensitivity of any such undertaking. A number of delegations recalled the efforts that had been made on that issue in the course of previous sessions, particularly the fifty-eighth session, of the Assembly, and the results that had been obtained from them. The possibility of the elimination, biennialization, triennialization, etc., of items was cited. One proposal put forward was to consider a sunset clause for agenda items.

22. In the wider context of the Assembly's agenda, the use of thematic debates was also addressed by many Member States. There was widespread agreement on the importance of holding these debates on issues of relevance to the international community and of concern and interest to the Organization. It was also noted that their themes and timing should be decided in consultation with Member States, and that they should be well prepared so as not to overload the agenda of the Assembly. Some delegations proposed that future thematic debates should be more results-oriented and be tied to emerging issues. Thematic debates could lead to the adoption of a resolution or the establishment of an open-ended working group on the issue discussed, and a list of proposals made by Member States during their thematic discussions could be drafted accordingly. Another delegation, while generally supportive of the important role played by thematic debates, expressed concern over duplication of discussions with those in other bodies (e.g. the Fifth Committee).

23. At the same meeting, several speakers intervened on the voting system in the General Assembly, offering a variety of views and comments, including the following: a group of Member States requested further information on voting systems; other delegations shared the view that it would be useful to hear a follow-up briefing on voting systems; a delegation suggested requesting the Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Information Technology Officer to provide information on the latest voting technology available and asked which system would be in place during the implementation of the Capital Master Plan; another delegation argued that empirical data was required to aid Member States in making a decision on the various options for a new voting system; a delegation proposed to refer the issue to the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ); several Member States wanted to improve the existing system of counting ballots by hand, whereas one associated delegation added, in its national capacity, that it was in favour of making full use of new technology; another delegation was not opposed to new technology if it could be implemented from

within existing resources; yet another delegation suggested it would be extremely easy to implement option A (utilizing optical scanners) to achieve improvements right away.

24. In other remarks, the issue of documentation was raised by a group of countries which emphasized the importance of the timely issuance of documents in all six official languages as well as measures to improve the quality and accuracy of documents, and requested clarification from the Secretariat on the possible savings that could accrue from reduction of the distribution of hard copies, assuming that electronic distribution would be quicker, less costly and more environmentally benign.

25. Another group of countries touched upon the role of the Main Committees, namely to explore the possibility of streamlining the Assembly's workload between the main committees and the plenary. And one delegation suggested that there should be no parallel meetings between main committees and the plenary.

II. "The role of the General Assembly and its relationship to the other principal organs of the Organization and the visibility and public outreach capacity of the Assembly; the role and responsibility of the General Assembly in the process of appointing Secretaries-General of the United Nations"

26. At the second thematic meeting, on 5 June, 15 delegations, some again speaking on behalf of various groups, intervened on the issues under discussion.

27. On the relationship between the General Assembly and the other principal organs, the view was expressed by many Member States that the primary objective of General Assembly revitalization was to continue to strengthen the role and position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. References were made by several speakers to the relevant provisions of the Charter setting out the respective bodies' functions and powers.

28. Numerous speakers, however, noted a growing concern over the perceived encroachment on the work of the General Assembly, and some referred to the perceived increased role of the Security Council in the field of norm-setting in this regard. It was noted that past resolutions aimed at increasing coordination among the two bodies existed and only needed to be implemented. Such implementation would include, inter alia, regular meetings among the respective Presidents of the principal organs.

29. There was also some concern that provisions regarding the improvement of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, as well as provisions regarding the submission of special subject-oriented reports, had not been implemented. In this regard, however, some delegations, noting the improvements made in the annual report of the Security Council, acknowledged that more progress was required. One delegation noted that the Security Council report did not suggest subordination of one body to another, adding that those delegations wishing to receive further details on the Council's work could consult with the respective members elected from within their own regional groups. Views varied among delegations on the extent to which the revitalization and Security Council reform processes were either interdependent or independent of each other.

30. Various delegations expressed their support for increasing the public visibility of the work of the Assembly, which, they argued, was proportional to and a function of the relevance of the issues discussed by it and the way in which it dealt with those issues. Some delegations stated that increased visibility could also be achieved by increasing interaction with civil society or through travel activities by the President and the Vice-Presidents. It was proposed to examine the reasons why the apparent public disconnect with the work of the General Assembly had been growing. On that issue, some delegations indicated that the form of debates in the Assembly could be made significantly more attractive.

31. A group of countries, on the other hand, suggested that the question of public visibility should continue to be considered in the appropriate forum of the Committee on Information. Another delegation, through the Co-Chairs, submitted questions on channels to major media outlets and plans to harness modern media techniques. A paper by the Department of Public Information on these issues requested by Member States was distributed to the Working Group at its third thematic meeting.

32. Several speakers also intervened on the selection process for the Secretary-General, offering a variety of views and comments. While some underscored the importance of retaining the current practice and while some focused on approaching the issue in full compliance with the provisions of the Charter, others suggested that the process had become less transparent and inclusive over time, and that the permanent members of the Security Council had assumed too large a role in it. Many stressed the importance of implementing existing resolutions on the issue and also emphasized the inadequacy of the past selection processes and the need for improvement. In that context, it was indicated by some delegations that it might be useful to reconsider or abolish the provisions contained in resolution 11/1 of 1946 on the appointment of the Secretary-General, and some also stressed that now was the best time to undertake a comprehensive review of the Assembly's role in the process. Some speakers suggested that the Assembly provide a forum for candidates for the post of Secretary-General to express their views and aspirations on their possible tenure.

III. "Strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and enhancing its functions and relationship with the Secretariat"

33. At the third thematic meeting, on 19 June, 10 delegations intervened, some again on behalf of various groups.

34. Those Member States intervening generally agreed with the importance of strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly. Some delegations welcomed the measures already adopted in this regard. Other delegations supported increases in both financial and human resources. Many speakers, including two groups participating in the discussions, underlined that priority should be given to the implementation of existing resolutions on those matters. Many, however, noted that those provisions were far from sufficient and that the financial support extended had been stagnating for too many years. One delegation suggested that a specific proposal could be submitted to the Fifth Committee and ACABQ. Others explicitly conditioned support for the strengthening of the Office on its being done within existing resources. Interest was expressed in receiving information updating the

situation on staffing and financing of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.[1] In addition, several comments touched on the importance of strengthening the Office's institutional memory, including through strengthening the role of permanent staff, with the understanding that those staff must be accountable to the entire General Assembly. The role and responsibilities of Advisers to the President of the General Assembly was specifically raised in this context.

35. Some delegations stressed the importance of ensuring efficiency in the process of nomination and selection of, and transfer of responsibilities between, Presidents. To strengthen the Office's institutional memory and bolster the smooth transition from one President to the next, several delegations reiterated the usefulness of the incumbent submitting a report to the President-elect of the General Assembly which could include specific recommendations and lessons learned on the working methods of the Office. A number of Member States argued that such an annual report should be shared with the wider membership and one speaker suggested formalizing a request in that regard. Another intervention further noted that the President of the General Assembly should also submit a report on all travel activities undertaken.

36. On a different matter, one group of Member States made the proposal to consider a consultative mechanism for strengthening the interaction between the President of the General Assembly and the Main Committee Chairs, to allow the former to be better informed of the proceedings of and challenges in those Committees.

C. Briefings

37. At the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Member States, in response to questions raised during the thematic meetings, heard two briefings from the Secretariat, on voting/balloting and documentation, respectively, as well as the views of a representative of the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA), each of which was followed by an opportunity for the membership to offer questions and engage in discussion with the panellists.

1. Voting and balloting options

38. The Chief of the Facilities Management Unit of the Secretariat, in a power-point presentation on voting/balloting, introduced delegates to components and features of the combined congress microphone, simultaneous interpretation and voting system which had been procured and was being installed under the Capital Master Plan during the third and fourth quarters of 2009 in the conference rooms of the North Lawn Conference Building. That system had been specified to provide the standard required functionality of congress microphone and simultaneous interpretation common to all current established conference rooms at Headquarters and to provide the open voting functionality as currently available in the General Assembly Hall and Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3 of the Conference Building.

[1] Subsequent to this request, confirmation was received by the co-facilitators that the provisions relating to the staffing and financing of the Office of the President of the General Assembly adopted during the fifty-eighth session remain unchanged. Their status is indicated in cluster III (paras. 35-38) of document A/62/952.

39. The system that is being installed in the North Lawn Conference Building also has available a number of other voting options, in addition to the open electronic voting currently used by the United Nations in the above-mentioned rooms. One of the voting options available on this system is called "closed voting". The power-point presentation demonstrated how this closed voting option could be used for the purpose of balloting. Delegates were also advised that preliminary discussions were being held with the system manufacturer on possibilities of amending or reprogramming the system to provide additional balloting/voting functionality to meet specific needs of certain General Assembly balloting processes for which the system is not yet configured.

40. Several speakers then posed questions on security and confidentiality aspects of the device, also expressing concern as to whether or not it would be guaranteed that votes cast were actually registered. One delegation asked about the provision of back-up in case of technical failure and another delegation wondered whether the tally and display of results would be instantaneous and what impact that could have on conducting multiple rounds of balloting.

41. In response, the Secretariat suggested that the North Lawn Conference Building would provide an opportunity for Member States to test the system's potential and that retailoring to meet security or other concerns could be accommodated and was common in the design, installation and adaptation of modern technology. It was emphasized by the Secretariat that any decisions on those matters would, of course, be subject to the guidance of the membership.

2. Documentation distribution

42. Following the briefing on voting and balloting options, the Director of the Meetings and Publishing Division of the Secretariat briefed Member States on the possibilities of savings that could accrue from reducing distribution of printed documentation. He also pointed out, however, that any decisions to be taken on that matter would need to emanate from the Assembly itself, noting that the Secretariat was in the hands of the membership in that regard and that the level, manner and kind of document printing and distribution would depend upon its decisions.

43. He referred to the annual survey in which Member States are invited to indicate their documentation needs, highlighting that a reduction of document printing and distribution of 3 to 4 per cent a year in each of the past few years had been achieved through their responses to it, even though only roughly 25 per cent of Member States had replied. He also encouraged the continued and even more active participation of Member States in that process, noting that resulting reductions in the printing and distribution of hard copies would be positive, for the budget and for the environment. He also explained that, because the Secretariat was a professional producer of documents, it could produce documents much faster and in a more environmentally sustainable manner than if they were all printed in equally many copies in the various missions. He further highlighted the Secretariat's economies of scale by indicating that printing out documents individually in missions can cost significantly more.

44. At the same time, he strove to underscore the extent of the Secretariat's efforts to enhance electronic and online services to and access by Member States. Noting the increasing ease of access to documents through both the Official Document System (ODS) and the hyperlinks written into the Journal of the United Nations, he

also encouraged delegations to participate in the Secretariat's E-Subscription project, which was being designed to enhance their digital access to and retrieval of relevant documents online, and which would, hopefully, lead to fewer hard copies of documents being needed.

3. Media and visibility

45. Subsequently, the representative of the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA), shared some insights from the perspective of the journalists covering the Assembly on ways in which they felt coverage of the Assembly and its work could be facilitated. The points she presented were:

(a) Restore the function of Deputy General Assembly Spokesperson to enhance capacity and institutional memory and to give the Spokesperson a longer tenure;

(b) Statements and texts should be delivered to the press documents desk far more quickly;

(c) Relax security to allow better access by and for the media;

(d) Ameliorate the consequences of the Capital Master Plan on the media's work;

(e) Indicate speakers' names and titles on the screen during video/TV transmission of meetings;

(f) Coverage would be sporadic as long as the agenda included items that were perceived as irrelevant to the outside world.

46. The Co-Chairs supplemented the points presented by UNCA with a report of their own on the meeting they had had with UNCA, from which they had taken away valuable lessons. One delegation suggested that it was up to Member States to decide whether and how to follow up on those insights.

47. In subsequent discussion of a synopsis which speakers considered to be a balanced account of the Ad Hoc Working Group's proceedings to date, a number of speakers suggested that it could form a basis for the Working Group's report. Others offered to provide further relevant comments and reactions to the Co-Chairs.

48. On the way forward, various views were expressed: some speakers, reiterating their position of implementing existing resolutions on revitalization, focused on the drafting of the Ad Hoc Working Group's report, while others suggested concentrating, in the Working Group's remaining time, on the drafting of a resolution. Yet others proposed updating the chart of implementation and separating those provisions that had been implemented from those that were still pending. The latter step, they felt, would help the Working Group to identify and structure its priorities better.

49. In other comments, one regional group cautioned that the Ad Hoc Working Group should not duplicate efforts in areas already under consideration in other forums. Another suggested that, based on the proposal to update and divide items in the chart according to their status of implementation, the Group might consider drawing up timetables for various thematic issues. One speaker strongly underlined the need for the Assembly to give high priority and focus to areas of peace and security, as well as to disarmament, which it considered to be important fields for

the revitalization of the Assembly, and another, on a similar point, underlined the importance of the Assembly taking up issues of current international relevance, such as the recent example of Honduras.

50. While one delegation stressed that, rather than focusing on the perceived encroachment by the Security Council on the work of the General Assembly, or the appointment process for the Secretary-General, it hoped that the Ad Hoc Working Group could find issues to pursue of common concern to the entire membership, such as the election process for the President of the General Assembly. It also stressed the importance of the early issuance of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, citing the positive example of the recent one concerning Honduras; the usual delay in issuance of several weeks was unhelpful. Other speakers focused on the importance of considering the way in which the United Nations goes about appointing its Secretary-General as well as on the General Assembly's relationship with the Security Council in particular.

51. In summarizing remarks, the Permanent Representative of Norway noted that questions had been raised on each of the issues considered at the meeting, including on the security, reliability and testing of voting/balloting machines. The Co-Chairs had also taken note of the distinction submitted by some speakers between technical and political issues. Finally, with regard to questions and comments on the Assembly's visibility, the Co-Chairs were aware of the role of the Committee on Information and assured those present that, insofar as forthcoming documents or conclusions contained new elements of possible interest to it, that Committee could also be apprised of them.

III. Conclusions

52. In accordance with its mandate, the Working Group endeavoured to identify key issues of concern and possible consensus, to examine the current status of implementation with regard to those issues, and either to take or to indicate possible further action to be taken on them.

53. At its eighth meeting, on 10 September 2009, the Ad Hoc Working Group considered and adopted a draft resolution (see para. 55 below) and the present report.

IV. Recommendations

54. On the basis of a draft resolution circulated by the Co-Chairs, the Ad Hoc Working Group developed, at its sixth and seventh meetings, on 8 September 2009, and at its eighth meeting on 10 September 2009, the resolution set out below.

55. At its eighth meeting, on 10 September 2009, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly concluded its work for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. The Working Group decided to recommend that the General Assembly adopt the following draft resolution:

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of its work, including resolutions 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264 of 29 July 1994, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301 of 13 March 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 of 1 July 2004, 59/313 of 12 September 2005, 60/286 of 8 September 2006, 61/292 of 2 August 2007 and 62/276 of 15 September 2008,

Stressing the importance of implementing resolutions on the revitalization of its work,

Recalling the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter,

Recognizing the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 18 of its resolution 60/286 on the selection of the Secretary-General,

Noting the role of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the importance of providing adequate resources for its substantive work,

Noting also the current practice of balloting utilized by the General Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

2. *Decides* to establish, at its sixty-fourth session, an Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(a) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on previous resolutions;

(b) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

Selection of the Secretary-General

3. *Affirms* its commitment to continuing its consideration in the Ad Hoc Working Group at the sixty-fourth session of the revitalization of the General Assembly's role in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter;

Role and authority of the General Assembly

4. *Welcomes* the holding of interactive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community in the General Assembly and invites the President of the Assembly to continue with this practice in consultation with Member States;

5. *Notes* the importance of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and invites the President of the sixty-fourth session to submit his views to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the sixty-fourth session for its consideration;

Working methods

6. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in consultation with Member States, to make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group, including the introduction of a sunset clause;

7. *Calls* upon Member States to respond to the annual review of the Meetings and Publishing Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on the distribution of printed documentation to Missions, bearing in mind the cost savings, as well as the reduced environmental impact, which may accrue from this exercise, in order to improve the quality and distribution of those documents;

8. *Invites* the Committee on Information at its thirty-second session to consider the sections on media and visibility in the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group, in particular those that call for less rigid restrictions and better access to people and information, and requests the Committee on Information to consider recommending measures for operationalization and implementation of aspects thereof in its report to the Assembly through the Fourth Committee at its sixty-fifth session;

9. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group, during the sixty-fourth session further consider options for more time-effective, efficient and secure balloting, reiterating the need to ascertain the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of the balloting process.

Annex

Updated inventory/chart of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization[a]

Explanatory note by the Co-Chairs

In accordance with the Ad Hoc Working Group's decision to base its work on the Chart developed during the sixty-second session (A/62/952/Add.1), the Co-Chairs have updated the Chart to reflect achievements attained during the current session, which are indicated in the Annex below. The updated Chart is subject to the comments and conditions indicated in the Explanatory Note to the original version.

Cluster I: working methods, documentation, agenda, etc.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
A.	**General provisions related to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**				
1.	60/286, annex, para. 24 *Also in:* 59/313, para. 14	Requests the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online.	Secretary-General	One-time action. The consolidated version of the rules of procedure is set out in document A/520/Rev.16 and Corr.1, both in print and online (A/62/608, p. 15).[b]	
2.	60/286, annex, para. 24	Requests the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat to make precedents and past practice available in the public domain with respect to rules and practices of the intergovernmental bodies of the Organization.	Secretary-General/ Office of Legal Affairs	One-time action. The Office of Legal Affairs has concluded the process of compiling precedents and past practice with respect to the rules and practices of the intergovernmental bodies of the Organization. That information will be made available in the public domain shortly (A/62/608).	

[a] Based on the Chart prepared at the sixty-second session, as contained in document A/62/952/Add.1.

[b] A revised edition of the rules of procedure has been issued under the symbol A/520/Rev.17. Available also from www.un.org/ga/ropga.shtml.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
B.	**Provisions related to the organization of meetings: Plenary, General Committee, Main Committees**				
3.	59/313, para. 11	Strongly urges all officers presiding over meetings of the General Assembly to start such meetings on time.	Secretary-General/ Department of General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on the ongoing basis by the Secretariat. Periodically, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provides presiding officers with statistics on the financial impact of the implementation of this provision (A/61/483 p. 19, and A/62/608).	
4.	58/316, annex, para. 1 (b)	With effect from the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the meetings of the plenary Assembly shall normally be held on Mondays and Thursdays.	Secretary-General/ Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	As from the fifty-ninth session, plenary meetings of the Assembly are scheduled and held on Mondays and Thursdays to the extent possible (A/61/483, p. 13, and A/62/608).	
5.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 2	The work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly might benefit if it is scheduled over two substantive periods during the session. ... With a view to enabling the Assembly to consider changes in this regard, with effect from the sixtieth session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to present, by 1 February 2004, various options for consideration by the General Committee, taking into account the requirements of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the different locations of their meetings and the budget cycle.	Secretary-General	One-time action. In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Options for the rescheduling of the Main Committees of the General Assembly" (A/58/CRP.3), which the Assembly considered at its fifty-eighth session (A/61/483, p. 12, and A/62/608, p. 7).	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
C.	**Provisions related to the general debate**				
6.	57/301, para. 2 *Also in:* 57/301, para. 3; 51/241, annex, para. 19; and 51/241, annex, para. 20 (a)	Also decides that the general debate in the General Assembly shall open on the Tuesday following the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly and shall be held without interruption over a period of nine working days.	Secretary-General/ Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on the ongoing basis. Included in annex VIII to the rules of procedure. The general debate opens on the Tuesday following the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly and is being held without interruption over a period of nine working days.	
7.	51/241, annex, para. 20 (b)-(e)	The preparation of the list of speakers for the general debate shall be based on the following principles: (b) Member States shall be invited to indicate three preferences for speaking times; (c) Member States wishing to organize or participate in group meetings during the general debate period shall be encouraged to coordinate their responses to the request for preferences and to indicate this transparently in their responses; (d) The Secretariat shall be requested to prepare a list of speakers based on existing traditions and expressions of preference to best accommodate Members' needs; (e) The list of speakers for each day shall be completed and no speakers will be rolled over to the next day, notwithstanding the implications for hours of work.	Secretary-General/ Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on the ongoing basis by the Secretariat. The preparation of the list is based on the expressions of preference, traditions and internal criteria, e.g. written request by a Member State, level of the representation, previous speaker slot, gender balance, geographical diversity, etc.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
D.	**Provisions related to the conduct of business: time limits on speeches**				
8.	59/313, para. 10	Decides that time limits on speeches in the plenary Assembly and in the Main Committees shall be applied in accordance with rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Rule 72 reads: *The General Assembly may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a representative exceeds his allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.* Rule 114 reads: *The committee may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a representative exceeds his allotted time, the Chairman shall call him to order without delay.*	Member States/ Secretary-General/ President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on the ongoing basis by the Secretariat, the President of the General Assembly and Member States, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.	
9.	51/241, annex, para. 22	Outside the general debate there shall b · a 15-minute time limit in plenary meetings and in the Main Committees.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision to be applied by Member States bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
10.	59/313, para. 13	Invites Member States that are aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions that they make in their national capacity on points that have not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by Member States bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.	
E.	**Provisions related to modern technologies**				
11.	60/286, annex, para. 28 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 15; and 55/285, annex, para. 24 (a)	Requests an update on its recommendation, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 59/313, regarding consideration of the use of optical scanners as a means of expediting the counting of votes cast through secret ballots during elections, taking due account of the security requirements in this regard and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the modalities thereof to the General Assembly.	Secretary-General	One-time action. Several options, taking into account the security requirements and the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of such means, have now been examined and have been made available to Member States in the form of a paper on revitalization which was prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Member States by the Co-Chairs in the course of the sixty-first session. The proposals contained therein are currently under consideration (A/62/608, p. 15). Action by Member States required.	At its 5th meeting, the Ad Hoc Working Group heard a briefing by the Secretariat on the possibility of adapting the voting system to be installed in the North Lawn Conference Building for the purpose of electronic balloting. Subsequently, several delegations asked questions on the security, reliability and confidentiality of such a system.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
12.	**55/285, annex, para. 24 (b) and (c)**	**Taking into account the general support in this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to submit proposals to the General Assembly for its consideration:** **(b) Wiring of the main conference rooms at Headquarters to provide members of delegations and the Secretariat with access to the Official Document System and other databases of the Organization, as well as to the Internet, together with electronic access to texts of statements and reports and, in the case of reports, simultaneous access to texts in all official languages;** **(c) Other areas of the work of the Assembly in which the use of modern technology and information technology would contribute to enhancing efficiency in its working methods.**	Secretary-General	(b) The Chief Information Technology Officer will coordinate with the Member States their requirements of connectivity. (c) Managing knowledge of the Organization, by way of an enterprise content management (ECM) system has been proposed by the Secretary-General. (A/62/510, paras. 70-76).	
13.	**51/241, annex, para. 45**	**The Secretary-General is requested to pursue an information technology plan with a range of options to provide all permanent missions to the United Nations and the wider public with online access to documents and relevant United Nations information. Unless the General Assembly decides otherwise, hard copies of documents shall continue to be distributed to permanent missions in accordance with their needs. While welcoming the progress made by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of**	Secretary-General	Web Content Management is a component of the ECM platform that facilitates knowledge-sharing within the Secretariat and with other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the public at large through its capabilities for the creation and dissemination of content on internal and external websites; provides a simple, browser-based capacity to create content, it empowers staff with minimal ICT skills to create and manage dynamic content of both internal and external	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
		the Economic and Social Council, further efforts in this direction could be pursued within a specified time frame to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems. All countries, in particular developing countries, shall be assisted in making full use of this potential access. Adequate provision should be made for training delegates. Facilities for such access by delegations within the United Nations premises shall also be expanded as much as possible. Availability of information in this manner should be ensured in all official languages of the United Nations.		websites; by standardizing web content authoring, the ECM system can easily enforce Secretariat standards for visual content, such as user interfaces and accessibility requirements, and facilitate the branding of internal and external websites (A/62/510, para. 72 (e)-(g)).	
14.	51/241, annex, para. 46	The Secretary-General is encouraged to include information on the impact of technological improvements in his report on the implementation of mandates, by means of comparing outputs with objectives.	Secretary-General	See comments for provisions 12 and 13 above.	
F.	**Provisions related to documentation: resolutions**				
15.	60/286, annex, para. 23 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 5	Encourages Member States to submit draft resolutions in a more concise, focused and action-oriented form.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by Member States bearing in mind the sovereign right of Member States to submit proposals in the context of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.	

No	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
G.	**Provisions related to documentation: consolidation of reports**				
16.	60/286, annex, para. 29 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 16; 58/316, annex, para. 6 (c); and 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 7	Requests the Secretary-General to implement further the measures set out in paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300 on the consolidation of reports and in paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 58/316 on documentation.	Secretary-General	Since the adoption of this resolution, a number of reports, where appropriate, have been consolidated (A/61/483, p. 21, and A/62/608).	
17.	58/316, annex, para. 6 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 16	In the light of its decision in section B, paragraph 7, of the annex to resolution 58/126 that the heavy volume of documentation that is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration should be reduced, the Secretary-General is requested: (a) To update the note by the Secretariat, entitled "Control and limitation of documentation"(A/58/CRP.7) in the light of the provisions of the present resolution; (b) To submit the updated version of the note by the Secretariat for the consideration of the General Committee, meeting in open-ended consultations, so that it may make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.	Secretary-General	In response to the provision formulated in resolution 57/300, the Secretariat has issued a note entitled "Control and limitation of documentation" (A/58/CRP.7). The note has not been updated, lacking the endorsement of Member States.	At the 5th meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Member States heard a briefing by the Secretariat on documentation. The Secretariat inter alia encouraged MS to continue and enhance its participation in the annual review of documentation requirements and solicited volunteers for the e-subscription service it is developing.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
18.	58/316, annex, para. 6 (c) *Also in*: 57/300, para. 20	To take the necessary action to initiate the implementation of provisions of paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to start, on a trial basis, a consultative process with the President of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of the Main Committees of the Assembly at the end of the main part of each session of the Assembly, with a view to consolidating reports on related subjects, if decided by the Main Committees.	Secretary-General/ President of the General Assembly/Member States	Consultations have not been held, as there is no applicable decision by the Main Committees.	
19.	55/285, annex, para. 15 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 32	Member States need to take concrete action to implement paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241, including by requesting more integrated reports. Paragraph 32 reads: *The number of reports requested shall be rationalized where possible so as to permit more focused consideration of issues. All bodies shall exercise restraint in making proposals containing requests for new reports and should consider integrating, biennializing or triennializing the presentation of reports, bearing in mind paragraphs 6 and 7 of General Assembly resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995.*	Member States	Provision to be implemented by Member States.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
20.	55/285, annex, para. 16	In preparing the annual memorandum concerning the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the secretariat of the Assembly, in consultation with the substantive departments of the Secretariat, should look for synergies and integration of reports.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. The annual memorandum concerning the implementation of the resolutions contains a paragraph on the need for possible integration of reports.	
H.	**Provisions related to the preparation and issuance of reports**				
21.	59/313, para. 18 *Also in*: 49/221 B, para. 6 (c)	Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation and reports are issued well in advance, in keeping with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation simultaneously in all official languages, as set out in resolution 49/221 B and in resolution 59/309 on multilingualism.	Secretary-General	Ongoing provision. In response to this request, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has entered into a compact with the Secretary-General which provides for zero tolerance of late submission of documents (A/61/483 and A/62/608).	
22.	55/285, annex, para. 18	The Secretary-General is requested to make further suggestions as to how to speed up the preparation of reports and to rationalize the scheduling of meetings. The Secretary-General shall keep the President of the General Assembly and the General Committee informed on this issue on a regular basis throughout the sessions of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	The Secretary-General continues to make recommendations in his memorandums on organization of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (see the most recent one, A/BUR/62/1).	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
23.	55/285, annex, para. 17	Member States and entities of the United Nations system should make a serious effort to submit their replies and inputs to requests for information or views pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly within the prescribed deadlines.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by the Member States.	
24.	59/313, para. 17	Encourages Member States, when seeking additional information, to request that they be provided with the information either orally or, if in writing, in the form of information sheets, annexes, tables and the like, and encourages the wider use of this practice.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by the Member States.	
I.	**Provisions related to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization**				
25.	51/241, annex, para. 4	The introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization should be in the nature of an executive summary highlighting main issues.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented by the Secretariat. The introduction to the report on the work of Organization is presented in a form of an executive summary highlighting the main issues.	
26.	51/241, annex, para. 5 *Also in:* 55/285, annex, para. 13	The main body of the report shall be comprehensive, informative and analytical in a way that will allow Member States to examine and assess, inter alia, through the debate on the report, the extent to which mandates given by the General Assembly have been fulfilled, as well as to set priorities in the context of the major political, economic and social, administrative and financial issues on its agenda.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented by the Secretariat on an ongoing basis.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
27.	51/241, annex, para. 6 *Also in:* 55/285, annex, para. 13	The Secretary-General shall incorporate a [new] forward-looking section in his report on the work of the Organization. It shall describe the specific goals for the Secretariat in the year ahead in the context of the work plan for the Organization in the coming year, taking into account the medium-term plan and the fact that the responsibility for establishing priorities rests with the Member States.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.	
28.	51/241, annex, para. 9 *Also in:* 55/285, annex, para. 13	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization shall, inter alia, contain an analytical and concise annex elaborating the costs by major programmes and activities of all bodies of the United Nations system, located both in and outside New York, according to their mandates, so as to improve Member States' overview of system-wide issues.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.	
29.	51/241, annex, para. 3	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization should be available not later than 30 days prior to the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly in all official languages of the Organization so as to permit due consideration.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. During the sixty-second session the report was not available within the deadline requested.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
30.	55/285, annex, para. 14 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 7	As regards implementation of paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President of the General Assembly, after consideration by the Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, shall inform the Assembly of his assessment of the debate on the report in order for the Assembly to determine the need for further action.	President of the General Assembly	According to the practice, the Secretary-General introduces his report at the beginning of the general debate. Consequently, the President of the General Assembly presents his assessment at the conclusion of the general debate. No additional assessment by the President is provided after plenary meetings of the General Assembly.	
31.	51/241, annex, para. 7	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization shall be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly immediately after the general debate.	Secretary-General/ Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented by the Secretariat on an ongoing basis. The report is considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly immediately after the general debate.	
32.	51/241, annex, para. 8	The General Assembly in plenary meeting may refer sections of the report for more detailed consideration by the Main Committees.	Member States	Provision has never been applied in practice. However, it does not formulate any definite obligation to refer sections of the report for more detailed consideration by the Main Committees.	
33.	51/241, annex, para. 10	The Secretary-General is requested to introduce the report orally at an appropriate time under the agenda item entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization".	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General introduces his report orally under the agenda item entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization".	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
J.	**Provisions related to the agenda of the General Assembly**				
34.	58/316, annex, para. 2 (a) and (d)	(a) Pursuant to paragraph 4 of section B of the annex to resolution 58/126, the agenda of the General Assembly shall be organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (or in the strategic framework, as appropriate), with an additional heading for "Organizational, administrative and other matters" ...; (d) The provisions of the present section shall be reviewed by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session with a view to making further improvements, as appropriate.	Secretary-General/ Member States (General Assembly)	One-time action. As from the fifty-ninth session, the agenda of the General Assembly has been organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and, subsequently, in accordance with the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, with an additional heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters" (A/61/483, p. 13, and A/62/608). During the sixty-first session no revision was made by the General Assembly.	
35.	58/316, annex, para. 4	Provisions related to allocation of agenda items (for details see resolution 58/316, para. 4).	Member States/ Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions of this paragraph are being implemented as from the fifty-ninth session and reflected in the agenda of each session (A/62/608, and resolution 58/316, para. 4).	
36.	55/285, annex, paras. 3-9	Provisions related to clustering of agenda items concerning cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.	Member States/ Secretary-General	One-time action. Provision implemented as requested and reflected in the agenda of each session.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
37.	55/285, annex, paras. 10 and 11	Provisions related to biennialization of agenda items (for details see resolution 55/285, paras. 10 and 11).	Member States/ Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions have been implemented as requested.	
38.	55/285, annex, para. 12	The following item shall be considered by the Third Committee, starting at the fifty-sixth session: "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly".	Member States/ Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions have been implemented as requested.	
39.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 4	With a view to better conceptualization of the content of the agenda of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the Assembly, for its consideration by 1 March 2004, an illustrative agenda of the Assembly, based on all the agenda items of the fifty-eighth session, organized around the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002-2005. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the illustrative agenda before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	Secretary-General/ General Committee	One-time action. In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Illustrative agenda of the General Assembly" (A/58/CRP.4), which the Assembly considered at its fifty-eighth session (A/61/483, p. 12). See also comments for provision 37 above.	

No	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
40.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 5	The President of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and following consultations with concerned Member States, is requested to make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the Assembly for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the proposals before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	President of the General Assembly	One-time action. Subsequent to the adoption of resolution 58/126, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Analysis of the agenda of the General Assembly" which was considered by the General Committee in open-ended informal consultations.	
41.	55/285, annex, para. 2 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 24	The rationalization and streamlining of the agenda of the General Assembly should continue in order to enable the Assembly to focus its work on priority issues. Any change or suggestion concerning the agenda is made with the understanding that Member States may at any time propose any issue or item for the attention and consideration of the Assembly.	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
42.	51/241, annex, para. 23	Bearing in mind rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the requirements for reopening debate on an agenda item which the Assembly had decided was completed will continue to be as at present and should be made clear to delegations through a statement from the President of the Assembly. A delegation wishing to reopen debate on an agenda item should send a written request to the President of the Assembly. The President will then undertake soundings to ascertain whether the request enjoys wide support. In the light of these soundings, the President shall announce in the *Journal* of the United Nations the date of the meeting of the Assembly to consider the question of reopening debate on the item, bearing in mind the requirements of rule 81.	Member States (General Assembly)/ President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. See also: rule 81.	
43.	51/241, annex, para. 25	As a general rule, agenda items that could be considered in the Main Committees shall be referred to the Main Committees rather than the General Assembly in plenary meetings.	General Assembly/ Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
K.	**Provisions related to practices and working methods of the Main Committees of the General Assembly**				
44.	60/286, annex, para. 25 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 8	Requests the Main Committees to continue their efforts to further rationalize their agendas and to improve their working methods, and invites the bureaux of the Main Committees to enhance their cooperation, in conformity with the rules of procedure.	Main Committees	In response to the request, some of the Main Committees explored ways and possibilities of enhancing their cooperation. For instance, during the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions there have been joint meetings of the bureaux of the Second and Third Committees.	
45.	60/286, annex, para. 26	Decides, in that respect, to give due consideration to those recommendations of the Main Committees regarding the improvement of their working methods and the allocation of agenda items which require the approval of the General Assembly for their implementation.	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision to be implemented by Member States.	
46.	59/313, annex, para. 9	Requests the Chairpersons of the Main Committees, at the end of their terms of office, to provide a short report on their observations and "lessons learned" to their immediate successors.	Main Committees	Provision is implemented by Main Committees on an ongoing basis. The observations and "lessons learned" are presented during the informal meetings between incoming and outgoing bureaux of the respective committees.	
47.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (a) *Also in*: 59/313, para. 7; and 51/241, annex, para. 26	Main Committees shall give specific attention to the rationalization of their future agendas by the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items, and make recommendations to the plenary Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005.	Main Committees	In response to this request, the Main Committees at the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions made recommendations to the Assembly.	

No	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
48.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (b) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 30	Main Committees shall adopt a provisional programme of work at the end of the session for the next session to help them better to plan, prepare and organize and, in this context, review the related documentation requirements.	Main Committees	Implemented as from the fifty-ninth session (information on the programme of work of the Fifth Committee is usually not available owing to the time frame of the Committee's work) (A/61/483, p. 14, and A/62/608).	
49.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (c)	The practice of interactive debates and panel discussions shall be utilized or expanded, as appropriate, by all Main Committees so as to enhance informal, in-depth discussions and to bring together experts from various fields without prejudicing the progress of the substantive work of the Main Committees.	Main Committees	Provision is being implemented on an ongoing basis. The Committees make extensive use of interactive debates and panels; for example, panel meetings are of particular importance for the work of the Second Committee.	
50.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (d) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 53	The practice of "question time" shall be introduced, as appropriate, in all Main Committees to enable a dynamic and candid exchange with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General and special rapporteurs.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. As from the fifty-ninth session, Main Committees introduced the "question time" which has a significant importance for their work.	
51.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (e)	The websites of the Main Committees shall be enhanced and thereafter regularly updated and their content maintained by the secretariats of the Main Committees.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The websites of the Main Committees continue to be enhanced and regularly updated by the respective secretariats (A/61/483, p. 15, and A/62/608).	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
52.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (f)	The bureaux-elect of the Main Committees shall meet immediately after their election in order to discuss the organization and division of their work.	Main Committees	Ongoing provision. Provision implemented as from the fifty-eighth session.	
53.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (g)	With a view to ensuring the continuity and the effective organization of their work, the incoming bureaux of the Main Committees shall, no later than two weeks after their election, meet with the outgoing bureaux in order to consult on and review issues relating to the efficient functioning of the Main Committees.	Main Committees	Implemented by most of the Main Committees as from the fifty-eighth session.	
54.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (h) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 30	Prior to the opening of each session, informal briefings of each Main Committee shall be convened to discuss the organization of work.	Main Committees	Implemented as from the fifty-ninth session.	
55.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 8	The Main Committees of the General Assembly are bound by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, although they have different practices and working methods. With a view to identifying best practices and working methods, and recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Main Committees to streamline their work, the Secretary-General, drawing on the	Secretary-General	In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees" (A/58/CRP.5), which was considered by the General Committee in open-ended informal consultations (A/61/483, p. 13, and A/62/608).	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
		experience of previous Chairmen of the Main Committees, is requested to submit a historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the note before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.			
56.	51/241, annex, para. 51	There shall be a more detailed and structured examination in the Main Committees of the relevant reports of the Board of Auditors, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Office of Internal Oversight Services in relation to the substantive work of these Committees.	Main Committees	The reports are examined in the Main Committees on an ad hoc basis, if necessary.	
57.	51/241, annex, para. 31	The Main Committees shall meet in substantive session only after the end of the general debate.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
58.	51/241, annex, para. 36	The First Committee and the Fourth Committee shall not meet simultaneously and may consider meeting in a sequential manner during the regular session of the General Assembly. This arrangement shall not apply if it affects their respective identities, programmes of work and effective consideration of their agendas.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The secretaries of the First and Fourth Committees undertake consultation for the purpose of avoiding simultaneous meetings.	
L.	**Provisions related to the General Committee**				
59.	60/286, annex, para. 27 *Also in*: 58/316, annex, para. 5 (b)	Reiterates its call for the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Rule 42 reads: *The General Committee shall meet periodically throughout each session to review the progress of the General Assembly and its committees and to make recommendations for furthering such progress. It shall also meet at such other times as the President deems necessary or upon the request of any other of its members.*	General Committee	Since the adoption of resolution 58/316, the General Committee has met throughout the session of the General Assembly.	
60.	51/241, annex, para. 33	The General Committee shall use its authority and competence, taking into account rule 43 of the rules of procedure, by allowing Member States that are not	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments	Commentary
		represented on the General Committee to participate in its discussions. The process of decision-making will continue to be as at present. Rule 43 reads: *A member of the General Assembly which has no representative on the General Committee and which has requested the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the General Committee at which its request is discussed and may participate, without vote, in the discussion of that item.*			
61.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (a)	The work of the General Committee shall be carried out in accordance with section VI of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	
62.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (b)	The General Committee shall continue to meet throughout the session and to play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work.	General Committee	Since the adoption of resolution 58/316, the General Committee has met throughout the session of the General Assembly and played its leading role in advising the Assembly in the organization of its work.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
63.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (c)	To ensure the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the General Committee shall meet regularly throughout the session with the bureaux of the Main Committees to review the progress of the work of the Main Committees and to make recommendations for furthering such progress.	General Committee	Since the adoption of the provision, the General Committee has met throughout the sessions of the General Assembly to ensure the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure. Main Committee Chairmen regularly briefed the General Committee on the work of their Committees.	
64.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (d)	In July of each year, the General Committee shall conduct a review of the proposed programme of work for the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, and submit recommendations on the matter to the forthcoming Assembly. The report of the Secretary-General shall include information on the status of documentation to be issued during the forthcoming session.	General Committee	In response to this request the Secretary-General submitted reports at the fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth, sixtieth and sixty-first sessions of the General Assembly, including the requested information on the status of documentation (see A/58/864, A/59/860 and Add.1, A/60/971 and Add.1 and A/61/1015 and Add.1).	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
65.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (e)	The General Committee, meeting in open-ended consultations, shall continue to consider the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the General Assembly and make recommendations thereon to the Assembly during its fifty-ninth session.	General Committee	Since the adoption of the provision the General Committee has made no recommendations to the General Assembly on the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of its customary agenda.	
66.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (f)	On the basis of proposals from the President of the General Assembly, and in the light of the positive experience during the fifty-eighth session, the General Committee shall be encouraged, as appropriate, to continue to schedule informal briefings on topical issues.	General Committee	At the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions, the General Committee held a number of informal briefings on topical issues. Owing to the rising number of thematic debates the practice of informal briefings in the General Committee has been limited to avoid duplication.	
67.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (g)	At the beginning of each session, the General Committee, following recommendations from the President of the General Assembly, shall recommend to the Assembly a programme of, and format for, interactive debates on the items on its agenda.	General Committee	Since the adoption of the provision the General Committee has made no recommendations to the General Assembly on a programme of interactive debates on the items on its agenda.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
68.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (h)	The General Committee shall continue to consider ways and means to further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects, and make recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005.	General Committee	The General Committee continues to consider ways and means of improving its working methods. No recommendation has been made in that regard since the adoption of this provision.	
69.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 1	The General Committee shall meet throughout the session and further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. It will play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work. In this connection, the Assembly will also consider proposals to reform the General Committee.	General Committee	The General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, adopted resolution 58/316, by which, inter alia, it decided on a number of measures with regard to the reform of the General Committee.	
70.	55/285, annex, para. 20	In order to enhance the capacity of the General Committee to assist the President of the General Assembly in the conduct of the business of the Assembly and to improve continuity between its different sessions, at the outset of each session, each Vice-President of the Assembly shall designate a liaison	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
		person for the duration of the session. This designation may be made informally, without any amendment to rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, by means of a letter to its President.			
71.	51/241, annex, para. 34	The General Committee may, each year, prior to the closure of the session, prepare suggestions based on its experience for the consideration of the incoming General Committee.	General Committee	Suggestions have been made on an ongoing basis during informal meetings between the incoming and outgoing General Committees.	
72.	51/241, annex, para. 35	The General Committee is requested to consider and recommend to the General Assembly methods and procedures for streamlining and rationalizing the Committee's work. The General Committee shall, in this context, in relation to each agenda item proposed, consider its rejection or its inclusion in the provisional agenda, taking into account previous recommendations of the General Committee and previous relevant decisions of the Assembly.	General Committee	Provisions to be implemented by the General Committee.	

Cluster II: selection of the Secretary-General

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
A. General provision related to the selection of the Secretary-General					
1.	60/286, annex, para. 17 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 57	Recalls Article 97 of the Charter, as well as the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 11(I) of 24 January 1946 and 51/241, as relevant to the role of the Assembly in appointing the Secretary-General, upon the recommendation of the Security Council.		No specific action.	
2.	60/286, annex, para. 22	Emphasizes the importance of candidates for the post of Secretary-General possessing and displaying, inter alia, commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, extensive leadership, and administrative and diplomatic experience.		No specific action.	
B. Provisions related to the selection process					
3.	60/286, annex, para. 18 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, paras. 56 and 59	Emphasizes, bearing in mind the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, the need for the process of selection of the Secretary-General to be inclusive of all Member States and made more transparent and that, in the course of the	Member States (General Assembly/ Security Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments	Commentary
		identification and appointment of the best candidate for the post of Secretary-General, due regard should be given to regional rotation and gender equality, and invites the Security Council to regularly update the General Assembly on the steps it has taken in this regard.			
4.	60/286, annex, para. 19 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 60	Encourages, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the President of the General Assembly to consult with Member States to identify potential candidates endorsed by a Member State and, upon informing all Member States of the results, to forward those results to the Security Council.	Member States, President of the General Assembly	No consultations upon the appointment of a new Secretary-General have taken place in 2006. Provision to be implemented every five years.	
5.	60/286, annex, para. 20	Also encourages formal presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States, and requests candidates to present their views to all States members of the General Assembly.	Member States	Presentation of candidature is being made in the form of letters to the Security Council. Since the adoption of that provision, there have been no formal meetings with the candidates in the General Assembly.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
C.	**Provisions related to the appointment and duration of the term**				
6.	60/286, annex, para. 21 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 61	Recalls paragraph 61 of its resolution 51/241, in which it is stated that, in order to ensure a smooth and efficient transition, the Secretary-General should be appointed as early as possible, preferably no later than one month before the date on which the term of the incumbent expires.	General Assembly, Security Council	The provision is being implemented to the extent possible.	
7.	51/241, annex, para. 58	The duration of the term or terms of appointment, including the option of a single term, shall be considered before the appointment of the next Secretary-General.	Member States	Member States decide on the duration of the term on a case-by-case basis, on the recommendation of the Security Council.	

Cluster III: role and authority of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
A. General provisions related to the role and authority of the General Assembly					
1.	60/286, annex I, para. 1 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 2 (b)	Reaffirms the role and the authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter.	Member States	Ongoing provision. The General Assembly has a number of items on its agenda that fall under this provision. Since the adoption of this provision, the tenth emergency special session was convened on 15 December 2006, and held its 30th and 31st plenary meetings.	
B. Provisions related to the election of the President of the General Assembly					
2.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 9	In accordance with paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of resolution 56/509, the General Assembly elects the President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the Chairmen of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of the	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision implemented as from the fifty-eighth session. This provision as well as rules 30 and 99 (a) apply to the election of the President of the General Assembly and the Vice-Presidents.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
		session in which they will serve. In order to foster better advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees, the full bureaux of the Main Committees shall similarly be elected three months in advance of the next session.			
C.	**Provisions related to the competencies of the President of the General Assembly**				
3.	58/126, annex, para. 7	In June of each year, the President-elect of the General Assembly, after taking into account the views provided by Member States and following consultations with the incumbent President and the Secretary-General, will suggest an issue, or issues, of global concern upon which Member States will be invited to comment during the general debate at the forthcoming session of the Assembly. The views provided by Member States should also be summarized and circulated to Member States. Such suggestions regarding the issue(s) for comment will be without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to solely and entirely determine the content of their general debate statements.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The President of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly suggested the theme: "Responding to climate change". The views provided by Member States were summarized in a presentation by the President to all regional groups in September 2007.	

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments	Commentary
D.	**Provisions related to the financial, logistic and technical support for the President of the General Assembly**				
4.	59/313, para. 3 (b)	Decides to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by: (b) Augmenting the resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly from within existing resources, subject to consideration by the Assembly of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to provide for two further additional posts at management and senior levels to be filled on an annual basis following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the sixtieth session of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented as from the sixtieth session (A/61/483, p. 18).	
5.	58/126, annex, para. 10	The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support, of which three shall be filled	Secretary-General	Provision implemented as from the fifty-ninth session (A/61/483, p. 11, and A/62/608).	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
		on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.			
6.	55/285, annex, para. 22 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 44	Additional measures are required to implement paragraph 44 of the annex to resolution 51/241, in particular in the area of substantive support for the President of the General Assembly. Therefore, adequate support should be made available to the office of the President in the substantive areas of its work. To this end, the Secretary-General is requested to take appropriate measures and to submit proposals to the relevant committees for their consideration during the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	The support for the President of the General Assembly is being provided to a limited extent. Various technical, logistical, protocol and financial questions need to be clarified.	
7.	59/313, para. 3 (c)	Decides to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by: (c) Making available to the President of the General Assembly adequate office and conference space with a view to enabling the President to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office.	Secretary-General	Beginning with the fifty-ninth session, transitional office space and other support have been provided to the President-elect.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
8.	60/286, annex, para. 11 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, para. 11	Requests the Secretary-General to continue to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of transitional office accommodation and other support to the President-elect of the General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 58/126.	Secretary-General	Beginning with the fifty-ninth session, transitional office space and other support have been provided to the President-elect (A/61/483, p. 11, and A/62/608, p. 6).	
9.	59/313, para. 3 (d)	Requesting the Secretary-General to ensure that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol services at Headquarters and at other United Nations duty stations.	Secretary-General	Support by the Protocol Office to the Office of the President of the General Assembly has been further strengthened through closer coordination with the Office of the President where protocol services are necessary, including also the social events hosted by the President (A/61/483, p. 18, and A/62/608).	
10.	60/286, annex, para. 9	Requests the President of the General Assembly, at the end of his/her tenure, to provide an informal, short report on best practices and lessons learned to his/her successor.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis in the form of informal meetings.	

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments	Commentary
E.	**Provisions related to the annual report of the Security Council**				
11.	60/286, annex, para. 4 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, para. 3	Invites the Security Council to further its initiatives to improve the quality of its annual report to the General Assembly, mandated by Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, in order to provide the Assembly with a substantive and analytical report.	Security Council	The report of the Security Council is being improved in a gradual manner. In the 1990s the report was changed to reflect changes in the working methods of the Security Council. Since 2000, further changes have been introduced; inter alia, the introductory part has been added. Since then, the Security Council has focused more on the introduction to the report. In 2006, information on special political missions has been added to the report. This year, for the first time, the report will be prepared on the basis of new guidelines according to the findings of the Security Council Working Group on Documentation. Furthermore, this year's report will include a record of draft resolutions on which no agreement was reached in the Security Council.	
12.	60/286, annex, para. 7 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 2 (d); and 58/126, annex, para. 2	Also invites the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern.	Member States (Security Council)	Since the adoption of resolution 58/126 no special subject-oriented reports have been formally submitted to the General Assembly. The special subjects are to some extent covered by the monthly assessments by the Presidents of the Security Council.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
13.	59/313, para. 2 (c) *Also in*: 59/313, para. 2 (f)	To consider the annual reports as well as special reports of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, and Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, through substantive and interactive debates.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The report of the Security Council is being considered through substantive and interactive debates.	
14.	51/241, annex, para. 11	The agenda item entitled "Report of the Security Council" shall continue to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The report of the Security Council is considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.	
15.	51/241, annex, para. 14	The monthly forecast of the programme of work of the Security Council shall be circulated for the information of members of the General Assembly	Security Council	Implemented on an ongoing basis. Member States are provided with the monthly forecast of the programme of work of the Security Council in hard copies. The programme of work is also uploaded on the website of the Security Council.	
16.	60/286, annex, para. 5 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, para. 4; and 51/241, annex, para. 12	In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in paragraph 12 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the report of the Council, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the	President of the General Assembly	To date, consideration of the report of the Security Council has been held in the plenary only.	

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments	Commentary
		need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.			
17.	51/241, annex, para. 12	The President of the General Assembly shall assess the debate on this item and consider the need for further consideration of the report of the Security Council.	President of the General Assembly	Implemented on an ongoing basis. The President of the General Assembly provides opening remarks and a closing assessment of the debate.	
18.	51/241, annex, para. 13	The agenda item shall not be closed but shall remain open to enable further discussion as necessary during the year, bearing in mind, inter alia, the submission of additional reports as and when necessary.	Member States (General Assembly)	During the fifty-ninth session the agenda item remained open. During the sixtieth, sixty-first and sixty-second sessions the Member States decided to close the item.	
F.	**Provisions related to the annual report of the Economic and Social Council**				
19.	60/286, annex, para. 8	Invites the Economic and Social Council to continue to prepare its report to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227, striving to make it more concise and action-oriented by highlighting the critical areas requiring action by the Assembly and, as appropriate, by making specific recommendations for consideration by the Member States.	Member States (Economic and Social Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
20.	51/241, annex, para. 15	The report of the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly shall be prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227. The report shall also contain an evaluation of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, taking into account the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.	Member States (Economic and Social Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	
G.	**Provisions related to the annual report of the International Court of Justice**				
21.	51/241, annex, para. 16	The report of the International Court of Justice shall continue to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly. The Assembly shall continue to support the role of the International Court of Justice as the principal judicial organ of the Organization, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Assembly shall also continue to encourage the progressive development and codification of international law.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Since the fifty-second session the report has continued to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
H. Provisions related to public relations activities					
22.	60/286, annex, para. 14	Requests the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in cooperation with countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of the work of the General Assembly.	Secretary-General (Department of Public Information)	Ongoing provision. The Department of Public Information continues to implement its communications strategy to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 59/126 B and 60/109 B.	Upon the request of a delegation during the thematic meetings of the Working Group, the Department of Public Information provided an update on its ongoing activities to enhance world public awareness of the work of the General Assembly. The Co-Chairs also requested a meeting with the United Nations Correspondents Association and invited one of its representatives to present the views of the Association on how to facilitate the media's reporting of the work of the General Assembly.
23.	60/286, annex, para. 16	Encourages the Presidents of the General Assembly to increase their public visibility, including through enhanced contacts with representatives of the media and civil society, thus promoting the activities of the Assembly, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue the practice of providing to the Office of the	President of the General Assembly, Secretary-General	Ongoing provision. Since the sixtieth session, for example, the Presidents of the General Assembly, together with the Chairmen of the Main Committees, have periodically briefed representatives of civil society on the programme of work of the Assembly at its current sessions (A/61/483, p. 20 and A/62/608, p. 15). No assistant to the	

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments	Commentary
		President of the Assembly a Spokesperson for the President of the Assembly and an assistant to the Spokesperson.		Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly has been provided since January 2008.	
24.	58/126, annex, para. 8	The work and decisions of the General Assembly should be better publicized. Accordingly, the support provided by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for these purposes should be intensified and strengthened. The Secretary-General is requested to present a plan to this end, within existing resources, to the next session of the Committee on Information, so that recommendations can be made to the Assembly.	Secretary-General (Department of Public Information)	One-time action. A plan was presented by the Secretary-General to the Committee on Information at its twenty-sixth session (see A/AC.198/2004/6; see also resolutions 59/126 B and 60/286, annex, para. 14) (A/61/483, p. 11, and A/62/608).	
25.	60/286, annex, para. 15	Urges the Secretariat to continue its endeavours to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and, to that end, requests the rearrangement of items in the *Journal* of the United Nations so that listings of plenary meetings and other major events of the General Assembly may appear alongside those of the meetings of the Security Council.	Secretary-General	As from the sixty-first session the items in the *Journal* of the United Nations have been rearranged (A/61/483 and A/62/608).	

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments	Commentary
I. Provisions related to the General Assembly cooperation with civil society and others					
26.	60/286, annex, para. 12	Encourages enhanced interaction, as and where appropriate, with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in particular those from developing countries, on relevant issues	General Assembly	Ongoing provision. Since the sixtieth session, for example, the Presidents of the General Assembly, together with the Chairmen of the Main Committees, have periodically briefed representatives of civil society on the programme of work of the Assembly at its current sessions (A/61/483, p. 20, and A/62/608, p. 15).	
27.	60/286, annex, para. 13	Also encourages, where appropriate, continued cooperation between the General Assembly and national and regional parliaments, particularly through the Inter-Parliamentary Union.	General Assembly	Provision has been implemented on an ongoing basis. Numerous meetings have been held between the President of the General Assembly and visiting parliamentarians. The Inter-Parliamentary Union also participates as an observer in debates of the General Assembly.	
J. Provisions related to the organization of work					
28.	55/285, annex, para. 19 *Also in:* 51/241, annex, para. 28	In order to implement fully paragraph 28 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President of the General Assembly is encouraged to make greater use of facilitators, where appropriate.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. During the sixty-second session the President of the General Assembly appointed 17 facilitators (on, for example, financing for development; international environmental governance; mandate	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
				review; system-wide coherence; General Assembly revitalization; Security Council reform; HIV/AIDS; commemorative high-level plenary meeting on children; assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse).	
29.	51/241, annex, para. 27	The General Assembly is the highest political body with universal membership of the Organization. Consideration of agenda items directly in plenary meetings shall be reserved for urgent issues or issues of major political importance, bearing in mind paragraphs 1 and 2 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/264.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	
30.	51/241, annex, para. 28	The President of the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that there is a systematic and transparent process for participation by delegations in discussions on action to be taken on items considered directly in plenary meetings, shall assess the debate in plenary meetings ...	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Usually, the President of the General Assembly provides his assessment of the debates in plenary meetings whenever items considered are of particular importance or special interest to Member States.	
31.	51/241, annex, para. 29	The Secretariat shall ensure, in consultation with the President, that	Secretary-General	Provision is being implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.	

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments	Commentary
		priority is accorded to the availability of a meeting room and services to facilitate these consultations.			
K.	**Provisions related to interactive/thematic debates**				
32.	60/286, annex, para. 3 *Also in:* 59/313, para. 3 (a); and 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 3	Encourages the holding of thematic interactive debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community in the General Assembly, and invites the President of the Assembly to propose themes for such interactive debates, in consultation with Member States.	Member States (General Assembly), President of the General Assembly	Ongoing provision. During the sixty-second session there were five thematic debates (on, for example, climate change; the Millennium Development Goals; management reform; human trafficking; human security). During the sixty-first session, five thematic debates were organized (Millennium Development Goals; gender equality; civilizations; financing for development; climate change).	
33.	59/313, para. 12	Encourages the holding of interactive debates with a view to contributing to intergovernmental decision-making.	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.	
L.	**Provisions related to the cooperation between the main organs**				
34.	60/286, annex, para. 2 *Also in:* 58/126, annex, para. 6; 55/285, annex, para. 21; and 51/241,	Urges the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council to meet periodically to ensure increased cooperation and coordination of their work programmes in accordance with their	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council meet together periodically. No regular information has been presented to the Member States about the outcome of	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
	annex, para. 43	respective responsibilities under the Charter; the President of the Assembly shall inform Member States about the outcome of those meetings on a regular basis.		those meetings.	
35.	58/126, annex, para. 5	The President of the General Assembly should continue to be briefed regularly by the President of the Security Council on the work of the Council. The President of the Assembly may wish to inform Member States about the substantive issues raised during these meetings.	President of the Security Council, President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council are meeting at monthly intervals.	
36.	60/286, annex, para. 6 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 2 (e)	Invites the Security Council to update the General Assembly on a regular basis on the steps it has taken	Member States (Security Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Information on the steps taken by the Security Council is provided during the meetings with the President of the General Assembly as well as included in the monthly assessments by the Presidents of the Security Council.	
M. Provision related to the implementation and follow-up of resolutions					
37.	58/126, annex, para. 9	Member States and the Secretariat should consider initiatives that might be taken for better monitoring of the follow-up of resolutions of the General Assembly, such as the provision	Member States, Secretary-General	Communications from the Secretary-General have been sent to Member States on an ongoing basis to ask for pertinent information (A/61/483 and A/62/608).	

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*	*Commentary*
		of timely inputs for reports of the Secretary-General and giving effect to proposals that would advance the follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.			
38.	59/313, para. 1	Stresses the need to demonstrate political will to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision does not contain request for specific action.	